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BROOKS WILLIAMS



My Turn Now

(OWN LABEL) www.brookswilliams.com



Statesboro bluesman Brooks Williams's twenty-first solo album plays like a live show, as if Williams, drummer/producer Chris Pepper and bassists Richard Gates and A. Murray Khan have set up in a pre-electric Louisiana dancehall to offer hard-working people welcome weekend respite. His 2001 album was *Skiffle-Bop*, and skiffle's rudimentary approach, expertly played, seems to underpin this sublime, no-nonsense rhythmic roots offering.

The take-your-partners Mississippi stomp 'Crazy Dance', all percussive acoustic rockabilly licks, kicks off, with the strident hillbilly vocal and pumping rock'n'roll of 'My Turn Now' following in short order. 'Darkness', driven by pounding tom-toms, brutal rhythm and resonator/harp riffing, maintains the temperature and that dancefloor throb.

While men sip refreshing moonshine and girls compare notes and draw breath, the band mellows to the country blues languidity of 'Year Began' and 'Hesitation Blues', conjures beautiful sadness on 'Rosalyn' and offers wry social commentary on 'Nine Days' Wonder' – *'Today's chip paper, yesterday's news.'*

Requests for radio hits are answered in Mose Allison's 'Your Mind Is On Vacation' and a resigned Kristofferson-penned 'Nobody Wins', Sally Barker harmonising ethereally with Williams's lead, before the gleeful Latin bounce of 'Joker's Wild' and the gently-menacing Delta groove of 'Sitting On Top Of The World' send dancers off to continue different, but related, physical activity.

David Innes

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